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Texarkana Gazette

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FIRST YEAR — Mrs. Frank W. McClain helps daughter Jill prepare her supplies for her first day in school. Looking forward to carrying her Charlie Brown lunch box, Jill hasn't decided if she'll like it or not. (Staff photo by Sue Tidwell).

SCHOOL DAYS NEAR

Familiar Noise Fades

With the beginning of Texas schools Monday the Frank W. McClain home will be void of the familiar noise of children at play for the first time in 17 years.

Six-year-old Jill McClain will begin her first year of school at Kennedy, leaving Mrs. McClain without one of her four children at home in "many moons." Jill begins her first year as her two twin sisters begin their last year in high school.

The twins, Suzy and Margaret, 17, are looking forward to their last year at Texas Sentior High with mixed emotions. Jill is not quite sure what to expect, but "looking forward to carrying my Charlie Brown lunch box." Her brother Ken, 16, a seasoned student of four years, knows what to expect of his fifth year at Spring Lake Park Football will be Ken's main outside interest.

Mrs. McClain said for a while it would be lonesome, "but I plan to fill my days with golf, crafts and clean this house top to bottom.

In remembering their first day of school the twins also recalled a spanking from the teacher. "When the bell rang for recess we were to go out side on the second ring, but we went on the first," Margaret said. Both are glad this is their last year.

Mrs. McClain pointed out that in 17 years she has always had a child at home. "The year the twins started to school, Ken was born. Now it will take some getting use to, but I'll find ways of filling my time."

Jill has already decided what she will be when she grows up. "I'm going to be a beauty shop lady, a nurse and a grocery store lady. I'll be one in the morning, one in the afternoon and the other at night." As to when she would sleep she replied, "I'll just quit sleeping."

The beginning of school on Texas side Monday marks the first time students have been required to attend 180 days of classroom instruction. This requirement resulted from action by the 61st Texas legislature. Students were formerly required to attend school 175 days.

In the Texarkana, Tex., School District, the one noticable difference from last year's term is that Sunset School will be closed. All students who would have attended Sunset are being sent to Grim School, according to school officials, in order that the district comply with Department of Health, Education, and Welfare guidelines.

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The Texarkana, Ark., School District will begin classes Wednesday in its first year of

(See SCHOOL, Page 2-A)

Our World This Morning

Skipper, 5 Others Stay on Ship

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A determined Philippine skipper and five of his crew stuck with their sinking freighter the Don Jose Figueras, afire in the Pacific 900 miles northwest of San Francisco Saturday.

The Coast Guard, after earlier reporting word that the entire crew of 29 and two passengers had abandoned ship to the nearby Japanese freighter Cuba Maru, said it received the later information in a direct communication from the ship.

Capt. Demosthenes Gabac radioed that his vessel, her hull cracked and holds No. 2, 3 and 4 burning, was still sinking but that he and the five crewmen will stay on board until the last."

Apparently moderate seas and the presence of the Cuba Maru and another Japanese freighter, the Ogishima Maru, changed the captain's mind.

Tropical Storm Still a Threat

SAN JUAN, P.R. (UPI) — Tropical storm Dorothy, with 20 dead and hundreds injured in its wake, weakened to a tropical depression over the waters of the Caribbean Saturday, but remained a threat to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The French Red Cross rushed aid to the islands of Martinique and Dominica, where Dorothy made its first landfall Thursday, washing away homes, roadways and bridges with its torrential rains.

Hurricane hunter planes reported Saturday Dorothy had become disorganized with top winds of 40 miles an hour as it neared the Donican Republic's rugged Barahona Peninsula.

WEATHER

Cloudy, Scattered Showers

TEXARKANA WEATHER — Yesterday's high, 90; low, 73. Rainfall, .16, period ending 9 p.m.

SW ARKANSAS — Considerable cloudiness and humid with chance of showers. High, upper 80's; low, 70's.

NE TEXAS — Scattered showers and cloudy. High, low 90's; low, upper 60's.

SE OKLAHOMA — Clear to partly cloudy with chance of showers. High, upper 80's; low, mid 70's.

NW LOUISIANA — Warm and clear to partly cloudy with chance of scattered showers. High, low 90's; low, mid 70's.

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Desegregation Push On

Acceleration Seen in Southern States

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — The greatest amount of Southern school desegregation since the Supreme Court outlawed assignment of pupils by race 16 years ago is expected this fall.

This will occur despite a flight of whites to segregated private schools, fear of violence, continuing confusion over integration edicts, and countinued legal resistance of court orders.

But federal officials estimate that 94 per cent of the school districts in 11 Deep South states will be operating under acceptable desegregation plans in September. However, the number of pupils actually attending integrated classes remains to be seen.

No pupil figures are available, but most observers agree the trend of increased desegregation in recent years will continue — and likely accelerate considerably — this fall under the Supreme Court's 1969 edict to end dual systems immediately.

In practical application, that meant no later than September.

From Texas to Virginia, every school desegregation plan accepted by either the courts or the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, has made September 1970, the deadline for establishing a desegrated system. The Nixon administration has indicated it will push for strict enforcement.

At a private meeting with representatives from Southern states recently, President Nixon reportedly stressed his personal commitment to enforcing large scale, public school desegregation in the South this fall.

The Justice Department reportedly had planned to send 100 federal officials into the South to oversee desegregation, but Atty. Gen. John H. Mitchell later said this was not anticipated.

Mitchell said, however, that federal personnel already in the South — U.S. attorneys, Justice Department branch offices and FBI offices — would enforce laws regarding desegregation.

"We will not permit federal laws and court orders to be violated," he said.

HEW's regional office said there are slightly fewer than 3,000,000 Negro pupils in the 11-state region composed of Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, Arkansas, Virginia, Texas and louisiana.

An associated Press survey of the 11 states shows that in most instances, school officials are striving — even if reluctantly — to comply with desegregation rulings.

They complain of contradictory court rulings, lack of official interpretation and clear-cut guidelines, the fact that hearings in some court cases are not even scheduled until after school is to open, general confusion over busing, racial balance, etc.

Educators, public officials, parents and pupils look toward the opening of school with varied feelings of apprehension, optimism, hope and concern.

There is some fear of violence, especially in those areas where there are large black pupil populations and where integration up to now has been token at best.

There is, also, in some areas, concern for the continued existence of the public schools because of "white flight."

The Southern Regional Council, a research organization headquartered in Atlanta, estimates that 400,000 white pupils have fled the public schools to new private segregation academies.

The number of such private schools is expected to increase this fall, in some cases with assistance from the states and local school officials.

In Louisiana, for example, the recently adjourned legislature appropriated $10 million for direct salary assistance to teachers in parochial and private schools. A nondiscrimination clause in the original legislation was deleted before passage.

There is above all, school officials say, confusion, stemming not only from varying orders from various courts but also from what they claim is an inability to determine just what the Nixon administration's stand is on desegregation.

Despite it all, officials in every Southern state said their states will achieve a substantial percentage of integration this fall, although none could cite exact figures.

The methods of achieving it range from the massive busing plan in Charlotte, N.C.—a court-ordered plan which is being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court—to the pairing of schools, such as in Duval County, Fla., to the neighborhood planning plan scheduled to go into effect in Atlanta.

In some instances, implementation of desegregation plans has had various repercussions.

In Beaufort, S.C., pupils are threatening to boycott classes this fall because they are to be bused from two black schools to predominately white Beaufort High.

The closing of black schools and integration of faculties also have resulted in the down-grading or dismissal of black teachers and administrators, Negro educators in every Southern state have charged.

Officials of the National Education Association recently testified before a Senate committee that 5,000 black principals and teachers in Southern schools have been either dismissed or demoted because of desegregation.

And in Mobile, Ala., where racial tension has erupted in a series of unexplained bombings and shootings this summer, some black parents have formed a separatist organization called (STEP) Steps Toward Educational Progress which is pressing for a black school district under black control.

ON MODEL CITIES

City Charter Provision May Halt Referendum

By LARRY POWELL
Staff Writer

Texarkana, Tex., city officials may have to decide in the next few days whether a little-known charter provision prohibits a referendum on the continuation of the Model Cities program here, as proposed by Freedom, Inc.

City Attorney Leon Pesek said he could not rule on the validity of the petitions seeking the referendum until he is asked to by the Texas City Council and until a petition seeking a referendum is filed.

However, it appears certain a ruling will have to be made, sources said.

The charter provision, if it is decided the Model Cities program falls under its wording, would apparently make a referendum on the subject a dead matter, according to some sources.

The provision says that citizens may call for a referendum on matters "except an ordinance appropriating money, issuing bonds or authorizing the levying of taxes..."

Article VI, Section Two of the charter, dealing with power of referendum, states:

"The electors shall have power to approve or reject at the polls any ordinance passed by the council or submitted by the council to a vote of the electors, except an ordinance appropriating money, issuing bonds or authorizing the levying of taxes, such power being known as the referendum.

Within twenty (30) days after the enactment by the Council of any ordinance which is subject to referendum, a petition signed by qualified voters of the city equal in number to at least 25 per cent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding regular municipal election for the office for which there were cast the greatest number of votes at such election may be filed with the city Secretary requesting that any such ordinance be either replied or submitted to a vote of the electors."

The ruling would apparently have to deal with the question, is the Model Cities program subject to referendum, since ordinances and resolutions were passed during the infant stages of the Model Cities program here putting the project in motion?

One resolution gave the city manager authority to file an application for a grant to assist in planning for the program, an ordinance created the administrative leg of Model Cities and a resolution assured the federal government that necessary local funds would be provided for planning activities.

The first council action on city hall record concerning the Model Cities program is Resolution 13-67, approved during the administration of Mayor Neal Courtney on Feb. 15, 1967. That resolution authorizes the city manager — at that time Howard Willingham to file an application with the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a grant to assist the city in "planning and developing a comprehensive City Development Program."

Ordinance 8-68, approved Jan. 8, 1968, under Courtney's administration, created the Department of Community Development — the Texas side name for Model Cities — and authorized Willingham to appoint a director for the department.

Resolution 34-68, approved March 25, 1968, provided that through a Department of Housing and Urban Development Contract, the city and the United States of America could enter into an agreement whereby the federal government would give the city $66,000 or 80 per cent of the cost of planning, whichever is more, for developing a "comprehensive City Demonstration plan." This resolution also stated that the city "hereby gives its assurances that the necessary non-federal share of the cost of planning activities will be duly provided."

Representatives of several different organizations, including Freedom Inc., the Tri-State Citizens Council, the Texarkana Taxpayers Coalition, and the Texarkana Evangelical Ministerial Alliance have asked the Texas city council for a referendum on the Model Cities.

Dr. Mitchell Young, president for Freedom, Inc. which is, with the other organizations and "independent voters" sponsoring the petitions, has said he plans to present the completed petitions to the city council at Monday night's meeting. According to Pesek, the petitions will need 1,109 signatures of qualified electors.

CAMPAIGN FACES TOUGHER GOING AHEAD

HEW Plan in Texas a 25 Per Cent Success

By ROBERT E. FORD
Associated Press Writer

The Health-Education-Welfare Department's "desegregate now" campaign in Texas could claim a 25 per cent success Saturday. From here on, it seemed from legal maneuverings, the agency will find tougher going.

And it appeared that the Justice Department, spearheading the drive on the 26 schools for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) was getting tough.

In at least three cases and possibly four, the Justice Department is expected to file its own plan—or that of HEW—Monday, bypassing the usual procedure of requiring a school to file a plan first. Some schools have said clearly they will file no plan of their own.

The major development Saturday was at Lubbock, where U.S. Dist. Judge Hal Woodward ordered school boundary lines redrawn.

The judge in essence complied with much of the plan advocated by HEW in two days of court hearings, but not all.

There was some indication that redrawing the boundary lines would achieve a predominantly Anglo majority in all the schools, but some observers said there could be an opposite effect. The court appointed a committee to determine how well integration was taking place.

The judge did not close any schools, although government lawyers asked him to do so.

Neither did the judge make any changes in elementary schools. He seemed concerned mainly with the high schools and with one predominantly all-black junior high school.

Tom Johnson, a lawyer for the schools, said it was too early to determine if the decision would be appealed. Bernie Shapiro, a government lawyer, said the decision was a compromise and it had not been determined whether the government will appeal.

GUARANTEE BY U. N. WANTED

Fulbright Proposes Mideast Peace Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. J.W. Fulbright proposed Saturday that a Middle East peace settlement be shaped and guaranteed by the United Nations—and buttressed by a separate U.S. treaty commitment to the security of Israel.

Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said a settlement enforced through the United Nations Security Council could "bring the U.N. back to life" and set a precedent that might enable it to deal with other conflicts.

"In our preoccupation with our own wars, we've almost forgotten the United Nations," the Arkansas Democrat said.

"I think it would be a fine thing—a useful step forward for civilization—if in the absence of a voluntary settlement by the parties, the United Nations were to 'impose' a peace settlement in the Middle East," Fulbright said. "It would be an equally fine thing if the United Nations could 'impose' a settlement in Southeast Asia."

Fulbright made his proposal in a 37-page speech he plans to deliver in the Senate Monday. He told a news conference if the United States and the Soviet Union could work together to achieve such a Middle East peace, it could break "the pattern of confrontation" between the superpowers, and open the way for negotiation to settle other East-West issues.

He said the U.N. Security Council resolution of Nov. 22, 1967, should be the framework for that settlement—and that means Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territory occupied in the Six-Day War.

In return, Fulbright said, Israel "would be entitled to firm and specific guarantees of her security.

"One such guarantee might be the stationing of sizable United Nations forces in militarily neutralized zones on both sides of the borders at all of the points which are critical to Israel's security," he said.

Fulbright suggested U.N. forces be posted on the Golan Heights, the west bank of the Jordan River, the Gaza Strip, and at the entrance to the Strait of Tiran.

He said a peace settlement also should include mutual disavowal of any efforts by either side to alter the Middle East frontiers of 1967.

Fulbright said Israel should be guaranteed access to the Suez Canal, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Strait of Tiran.

He said Palestinian Arab refugees should be offered either repatriation or compensation. Fulbright said some refugees should be offered Israeli citizenship, others resettled in the Arab states with financial assistance from Israel.

"Central and indispensable to a peace settlement ... would be the guarantee of the entire settlement by the United Nations," Fulbright said. "Such a guarantee would properly take the form of a specific commitment by the U.N. Security Council to enforce the peace and all of its specifications, including the 'secure and recognized boundaries' of both Israel and her Arab neighbors, and the neutralized status of designated border areas."

He said the agreement also should set strict limits on arms sales to Middle Eastern nations.

Fulbright said the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France, would, as permanent members of the Security Council, have major responsibility for enforcing the peace terms.

But he said Israel has signaled a lack of confidence in the United Nations, and so proposed a separate U.S. treaty to buttress such a settlement.

"In order to accommodate this attitude and provide Israel with an added assurance of security, I for one would be willing to supplement a U.N. guarantee with a bilateral treaty ... under which the United States would guarantee the territory and independence of Israel within the borders of 1967," Fulbright said.